37/ 1605/822(1)

Reaſons for the *Bill* for *Improvement* of the *Woollen Manufactures*, and preventing *Exportation* of *Wool*, &c.

The Preamble ſets forth the Cauſes of the general decay of the Clothing Trade.

SEveral Acts have indeavoured to advance it, as the main Commodity that ſupports this Kingdom; ſets the Poor to Work, and will enable the Tenant to pay better Rates for Farms and Tenants to his Landlord: Yet hitherto none could put it into ſuch a poſture, as to flouriſh near that degree it is capable of, if managed to the beſt advantage. The Act 5 and 6. *Ed.* 6. *c.* 6. upon mature advice and with the conſent of all concern'd in the Clothing Trade as is therein expreſt, came the neareſt that deſired end; by appointing the Mayor and Bayliffs, *&c.* in Corporations to have Searchers to view Cloth if 'twere well Wrought and Dyed; they were to put on their ſeveral Seals to teſtify how it was: And although 10 *l.* Penalty is upon the Mayor if they neglect it, and 5 *l.* on him that refuſes to be a Searcher, yet this Act has long been diſuſed: which ſhews the neceſſity of a more certain Method, where it ſhall be the ſole buſineſs and private Intereſt of Overſeers, to take care the Laws be executed; Or the Credit of our Woollen Manufactures will never revive abroad, much leſs exceed what they formerly had.

The Reaſons of the decay are the falſe making of Cloth, by intermixing bad ſtuff with Wool, as Flocks, Pinions, Lambs Wool, and the like deceitful ſtuff forbid by many Statutes, 4 *Ed.* 4. *c.* 1. 1 *R.* 3. *c.* 8. 6 *H.* 8. *c.* 9. 3. and 4. *Ed.* 6. *c.* 2. 21 *Jac. c.* 18. Thus ſtriving out of Coveteouſneſs or Idleneſs rather to make many then good Cloths, pretending they do it to humour the ſeveral fancies of each Market, when no doubt he has moſt buyers whoſe Cloth is cheap and wears beſt which induces all to make uſe of it: 'tis rather the number of conſtant buyers that cauſes the greater vent of a Commodity, then the ſpeedy Conſumption by it's been ſoon worn out or decayed: upon which the wary buyer firſt and after all by example quit uſing of it, and tho variety in the Fathion may ſupport ſome ſorts of Cloth for a while, yet whole Kingdoms at length finding the ſlightneſs upon tryal of it, forbear to buy any or but little in compariſon, this puts the Merchants upon inventing ſo many new ſorts like Druggets, *&c.* to ſupport by the novelty their ſinking Trade. Beſides true cloſe wove Cloth does conſume much more Wool, and yet need not be therefore heavy and comberſom but by the fineneſs or courſeneſs of the Wool and Thred adapted to the uſe of all Climates.

Further our dying of bad Colours makes Foreigners rather deſire white Cloths, many of which are exported, by which the Cloth-worker and Dyer both loſe as well as the Nation that part of the Manufacturing. Cloth-workers and Dyers have made very great Complaints to the Parliament againſt the Exportation of Whites; but they may thank themſelves, for did they do their work truly 'twould not be ſo.

In bad Spinning many hundred weight of Yarn is brought into Markets more fit to be burnt then put into Cloth, *&c.*

So the Weaving is looſe and falſe and will continue without ſome particularly to look after the preventing of it. The fulling is ill perform'd, and the greaſe not ſcowered out; the Aulnegers Duty left off and abuſed by ſcrewing Farmers, ſince alienated from the Crown; though of exceſſent uſe formerly, by keeping Clothiers to the making of Cloth up to the Statutes.

Beſides exporting Wool and Fullers-earth, with other like Materials for making of Cloth, opens to Foreigners an eaſie cheaper way to make Cloth, for they taking more pains and care to Manufacture theirs truely, do get the Trade from us with our own Wool; which is exported to them becauſe Wool lyes upon Peoples hands here, for want of the vent it formerly had through Cloth exported; ſo as Foreigners buying it in greater quantities do it alſo at a lower price then whatever Clothiers here are forced to give the Retailers, who pretend its dear, when themſelves by exporting have firſt render'd it ſcarce. Thus their Foreign Cloth underſells ours at our own Markets abroad, and they alſo ſet up new Marts for themſelves in other places with the help of our Wool, without which they could not do it. The Clothier or Grower will hardly export Wool, but only the Retailers whoſe gains are only in ſelling it again. Retailers neceſſitate that the Clothiers cannot make ſo good nor cheap Cloths, for the moſt uſeful and beſt part of the Wool is always convey'd abroad; for they muſt humour the Foreign Markets where they can vend vaſt quantities at once; whereas the Clothier at home has the refuge forced upon him at a dear price, ſo mixt and diſguiſed that he cannot if he would be ſure to make good and cheap Cloths, while Retailers buying their Wool *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* in the Fleece make three or four ſorts of it

by parting of it, the worſt of which they ſell at above the firſt coſt; and other ſorts they ſell three, four, ſix and eight *d.* a pound above what it firſt coſt. So the Engroſſers of *Spaniſh* Wooll in *London* do raiſe the price of that Wool from Two to Eight Pence *per* Pound. Is it therefore fit any ſhould have the buying of Wool, but the Clothier, Weaver, Spinner, Comber, or other known Worker of the ſame; who though Wool ſhould coſt them Twelve Pence *per* Pound to the Grower, yet would have it cheaper, then as now from the Retailers.

But to prevent the foreſaid Inconveniences ſay they, will prejudice the Poor, who cannot have Wool ſorted ready to their hand to work; but what hinders that the Grower may not ſort his Wool, and ſell it out in ſmall Parcels, as well as the Retailers: and this Bill is deſign'd to provide that the poor Clothiers may have Wool at the firſt rate and hand.

'Tis computed there has been within the Memory of Man exported above 300000 Cloths a Year, but of late not 50000. The Counties of *Suffolk*, *Norfolk*, *Suſſex* and *Kent* have made Cloth for Exportation only upwards of Thirty Thouſand Cloths a Year, and ſuch Cloths as made a great Conſumption of Wool, and imploy'd many hands; for the Cloths made there were from 23 to 33 Yards long, and to weigh from 64 to 90 Pounds a Cloth, and now not 1000 Cloths a Year. The Towns of *Reading*, *Newbery* and *Baſingſtoak* have made above 20000 of Cloths 30 Yards long and 90 Pounds weight, now ſcarce any made there, the Counties of *Devon* and *Cornwall* have made like numbers from 25 to 30 Yards long 6 quarters broad and weight above 60 Pounds, and now very little made there. And in many Towns and Pariſhes in *Somerſet-ſhire* great quantities have been made for the Merchant of Cloth from 25 to 30 yards 6 quarters, and to weigh above 60 pounds and none at all. Which Cloths kept Thouſands at Work, made a vaſt Conſumption of Wool, and thereby kept up the price of it which made the Tenant pay his Landlord well, ſince the decay of the Woollen Manufactures, Land is fallen, Subjects impoveriſht.

The foreſaid ſhews there is a decay at home and to ſatisfy 'tis alſo as to the Exportations. The *Hambrough* Company have exported 60000 Cloths yearly, and of late not 15000. The *Turky* Company have ſhipt out 40000 Cloths a Year, and now not half, and ſo all Trading Companys proportionably as vaſt quantities to *Ruſſia* &c. all which is loſt becauſe Cloth is not made according to the Statutes, and if the Cloth were made up to the Statutes as we propoſe, no Nation can under ſell us or pleaſe the ſeveral Markets better.

And tho in *Yorkſhire*, *Colcheſter*, &c. perhaps a greater number of Cloths are made then formerly, yet that is only a private advantage comes to them by the particular Acts for their regulation; but does not amount in the whole Kingdom to the ſixth part of ſo great an Exportation as was Forty Years agone: ſo that without great Penalties be put upon making bad Cloths, and ſome Commiſſioners appointed to levy and ſee things be perform'd, the Trade is not like to recover.

There is no Law for correcting the Abuſes in Rowing and Shearing, and though there are for Straining, yet Cloth is ſtrain'd prodigiouſly, as one yard in five in length, and in breadth above a quarter and a half, which weakens the Cloth; and none by Law deputed to look after it. Even in the Acts for the Weſt-riding of *Yorkſhire* in King *Charles* the *Second*'s time, there is no hindrance for Cloth-workers, working of them falſly or ſtraining; and ſo in the City of *London* for *Worceſter* and *Salisbury* Whites: that when they come to Foreign Markets, the buyer crys out falſe *Engliſh* Cloth.

Trading Companies lay great Impoſitions on Woollen Manufactures by which they become dear abroad; *Hambrough* Company 22 *d.* on a long and 20 *d.* on a ſhort Cloth, 12 *d.* on a *Spaniſh* and 6 *d.* on a Searge: and ſo others do the like. and this levying of Money on the Subject is againſt Law.

Want of Statutes for new Draperies as *Spaniſh* Cloth is the cauſe Clothiers make as they pleaſe, and put in Flocks Pinions and Lambs Wool; which deceitful ſtuffs are againſt Law as to other Statutes Cloths.

Companies hindring their Members to Trade out of Mart Towns, hinders the vent of Woollen Manufactures, becauſe Commodities ſhould come more in ſight of Princes Courts, &c. to tempt ſuch buyers as will not take the pains to ſend far for Cloth, eſpecially whilſt ſo falſe made as it is.

Great diſcouragement to the Returns upon Woollen Manufactures in the new Book of Rates to the prejudice of their vending abroad, for many Goods imported do hinder the vent of Returns made upon Woollen Manufactures. As Calicoes, raw and wrought Silks from the *Indies*, *France* and other places: which do by reaſon of their Cheapnes obſtruct the vending of Linnen from *Germany*, and raw Silks from *Turky*.

Liſtly, Exceſſive Cuſtoms ſome Princes do lay upon our Woollen Manufactures, as from 25 to 30 *per Cent.* makes them the dearer abroad.

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The Bill ſets forth the proper Remedies for recovery of the Woollen Trade.

1ſt. *Commiſſioners appointed to look after Wooll and Woollen Manufactures with neceſſary Officers under them.*

Why not Commiſſioners to ſee to the exporting with all advantages our own native Commodities, as well as to manage and receive the Cuſtoms upon imported Foreign ones; for without a ſpring of Execution, Laws will ſoon dye as experience ſhews: and without the four Views propoſed hereafter to paſs upon Cloth, &c. no Man alive can be ſecure it is truly Manufactured. As *Firſt* in the raw Thred to ſee if it be even ſpun and cloſe ſtruck in the Weaving of it (as it is at *Colcheſter* by Maſters, Wardens and Aſſiſtants from which they have gained a Trade) then 'twill laſt longer, conſume more Wool, and be fit for ſeveral other uſes then now it is; Yet need not be too thick& heavy or comberſom to the wearer, but humour the Fancy or Faſhion of each Country, as well if not better then now they do. 2*ly*, Out of the Mill (which performs the Aulnegers Duty) to ſee Cloth is well ſcowred and tucked, then 'twill not be lyable to be Worm or Moth eaten; for thoſe will not touch Cloth that has no dead Wool in it, and has the Greaſe and Oyl clearly got out of it. 3*ly*, To ſee it at the Cloth-workers, (which is agreeable to the Stat. 5 and 6. *Ed.* 6. in Corporations) if its well Rowed and Shorn; that is riſes thick, and is even and ſhort, which makes it wear longer without growing bare fences off rain makes it look even, fine and gloſſy, though not preſt with hot Boards, which harſhes and decays the Wool. 4*thly*, a ſearch at the Dyers (which is alſo according to the foreſaid Statute) to ſee his Colours be good and laſting, and ſuch as will not decay Cloth. No buyer would be willing to be deceived in any of theſe occaſions of ſearching; and this remedy of all falſeneſs in Cloth is moſt eaſy, and done with a great deal of quiet; and ſo ſmall a Duty as ſhall be laid on each of the four Views, will defray the whole Charge of Officers, and the Management of the Woollen Manufactures. Some Merchants raiſe mighty Fortunes by putting their own Seals on and waranting ſuch Cloths, which hold good in the proof, drew a great Trade: Theſe four ſearch Seals being put will be a much greater aſſurance of good Cloth; and conſequently bring it into the higheſt Eſtimation abroad; and with the regulation propos'd ours will be preferrable to the Cloth of any Nation; ſince none have the means to arrive at the ſame perfection as we may by our Wool, without which others cannot exceed us: this would make ſuch a vaſt Conſumption of Wool as none would remain Unmanufactured at the Years end, and though it would of it ſelf riſe to 12 *d. per* Pound, yet 'twould be cheaper then now to the Clothiers by which Cloth would not coſt ſo much, tho much better; as now a deceitful uſeleſs one does, which is very conſiderable.

Alſo there is a latitude left in this Bill for Commiſſioners to put ſuch ſtandard to new invented Cloths, which they ſhall find by conſulting the Merchants may be proper to be made for to ſatisfy the fancy of any Market: ſo as the Merchant needs not fear being hinder ed from ſupplying any Foreigu Cuſtomer with ſuch a ſort of Cloth as ſutes their particular humour; only the ſearch will then paſs on them to ſee they come up to ſuch perfection as they pretend to, that the proof may anſwer the buyers expectations abroad.

If Wool as is hereby propoſed riſes of it ſelf to be worth in a way of Trade 12 *d.* a Pound 'twill not then be worth any Mans while to export it, which is a thing ſo much deſired to be prevented.

2dly. *That Cloth be viewed in the raw Thred, then in the water to be meaſur'd, and alſo after rowed and ſhorn and laſtly when dyed if well done.*

Colcheſter Bayes have the like view already on them by Act of Parliament, why not upon all other Woollen Manufactures ſince it ſucceeds ſo well there. The view in the water as to ſize is by Statutes 25. *E.* 3. *c.* 1. 27. *E. c.* 4. 17. *R.* 2 *c.* 2. 11. *H.* 6. *c.* 9. The Cloth-workers view is no new thing for the Act 5 and 6. *E.* 6. impowers Mayors, *&c.* to appoint Searchers and put their Seals to Cloth; yet that has not been effectual by other buſineſs no Salaries and often change but is an evident Argument why there ſhould be Commiſſioners whoſe particular care it would conſtantly be that the Woollen Manufactures be improv'd: and though it may be ſaid the corruption of Officers may defeat the good thereby expected, yet that is an Argument equal againſt the beſt Conſtitutions; but there is none againſt the number of them, ſince the ſmall Duty to be laid in this Bill will maintain every body concerned, as not to be the leaſt burthen to any in the Country, and the Commiſſioners will on Complaint puniſh any Oppreſſion, *&c.* Committed by any of their Officers, beſides the ſaid Duty laid upon the four ſeveral Workers concerned about Cloth is eaſy inſtead of the Aulnage and all other Charges which now do lye much heavier on it, as Aulnage 2 and 4 *d.* and half *d.* for meaſuring the Corporation ſeal 2 *d.* Impoſitions by Companies 22 *d.*½.

3d. *Penalty on each of the ſaid Views for any fault in any of them.*

Becauſe the Weaver and Cloth-worker uſually work by the Yard, the penalty on them is by the Yard; ſometimes and in ſome places he may work

well and others ill, and for that only which he does ill, he is to be punished. The Fuller and Dyer are paid by the Peice, so are their faults punisht by the peice; but the Cloth is not to be forfeited, only a small fine paid; and the fault markt on the Seal.

4th. *A Seal fixt to Cloth shewing truth or falsety in each of the occasions of viewing it.*

This prevents the buyers being cheated in any of the above Particulars, and therefore a Penalty for taking off any of the said Seals.

5th. *A view to be on all Wool, Wosted and Yarn, before expos'd to Sale to see it be Merchantable.*

To secure that neither buyer nor seller impose on each other.

6th. *A Statute for length and breadth of new Draperies as* Spanish *Cloth.*

To prevent Clothiers making of them *ad libitum* as they now do, they are made sometimes from 28 to 36 yards long see 130 page of the Book of Rates.

7th. *Power in Commissioners for future new invented Draperies as to length, breadth and weight.*

That they with advice of Clothiers, may set such Standards thereunto, as may be most for the good of the Woollen Manufacture to humour such Markets as Merchants think beneficial.

8th. *That no Imposition be laid by Companies on the Woollen Manufactures.*

They'l say they have a Patent so to do, but is not Trade injured thereby, for so Taxing Cloth makes it dearer abroad, 22 *d.* on a long Cloth and 20 *d.* on a short by the *Hamborough* Company 12 *d.* on every *Spanish* Cloth and 6 *d.* on a Searge; and other Companies do the like, laying Impositions on Woollen Manufactures which is against Law, and inhances the price, which would not be if the Taxes were laid on the Members, and not on the Manufacture; as other Companies in *London* do.

9th. *That no Trading Companies hinder their Members to Trade out of their Mart Towns.*

This hinders the vent of Cloth, &c. in such abundance as if their Members might reside with it at Princes Courts in *Germany*, as the *Hollanders* and *Freneh* do, and in great Cities, for Cloth being brought in sight, often draws in buyers that would not unless its goodness were extraordinary, go far to seek it. They might regulate and govern their Members, as well out of as in the Marts Towns. They will say their contracts with such Towns hinders, which being but in the nature of private Contracts, and being found prejudicial to the Public, ought not to be kept: and if those Towns take away the Priviledges they have granted to them, so may the Government here take away the Privilledges of the Hans Towns injoyed at the Still Yard in *London*.

10th. *Customs to be on Calicoes, raw and wrought Silks from the Indies and other places, as they may bear like rate with raw Silk from* Turky, *and Linnen from* Germany.

We are forced to take raw Silks, &c. from *Turky* in return for Cloth, and the throwing of it here does not only imploy Thousands of Poor, and Seamens Wives; but also wrought Silks made here might if hereby incouraged come to be a good Exporting Commodity: In reason it follows that at least raw Silks and wrought from *Indies* and *France* pay such Custom as to make them equivalent in price when thrown (for they are now thrown cheaper then *Turky* Silk) to what is return'd us for Cloth from *Turky* in Silk, and from *Germany* in Linnen; and if we do not contrive this way to incourage the *German* Poor in making of Linnen, they'l not quit, but improve in their way of making Woollen Cloth, as they already do in *Silecia* of a courser sort.

11th. *Clothiers to Weave Christian and Sirname on Cloths.*

To make an emulation when the Eminent Clothiers name is called for at Foreign Markets, they'l yearly advance to higher perfections in the Manufacture, especially if a prize or reward were to be given to him of every County that show to the Searchers and Commissioners approbation the best and finest peice of Cloth yealy. Also by this Article the Commissioners may give a guess by inspecting the Names on Cloth, before Exportation, if their Searchers do their Duty in the Country; and also see which Clothiers are notorious for making bad Cloths, &c.

12th. *Clothiers not to dispose of Cloths, &c. but at open Fair and Market.*

This is to prevent prejudice to Shop-keepers and Retailers, and that bad Ware be not vended by Haglers up and down; who by under rates inveagle buyers, before the good Cloths brought forth.

13th. *All Materials imported serving the Woollen Manufactures be Custom free but if again Exported to pay the greater Duty.*

This will render our Cloth cheaper and what's made in other Countries dearer by the Duty outwards on Materials, 13 and 14 *Car. 2. c.* 19. Foreign Wool-cards, Card-wyer or Iron-wyer forbidden to be Imported: so they are not to come in free by this Act.

14th. *Cloth*, &c. *Sold the buyers are to pay only Water Measure.*

Thus what advantage is in the length of the Cloth by straining, will be to the buyer, for which reason the sellers Intereft will not be to injure the Cloth by stretching of it: and the Cloth in a common way of Dressing, will come out more then the accustomed yard of allowance, besides the Clothier and Buyer thus are at certainty what they sell and buy, and what to be paid; and this will be an Incouragement of some advantage to the Merchant that exports Cloth that thus exceeds the Water Measure; which must appear on a Seal fixt to the Cloth.

15th.

15th. *Imported Goods which are the Effects and Products of our Woollen Manufactures, Lead, Tyn, Coals and Fish of* Engliſh *ketching, ſhall have the benefit of the ſecond, eighth and ſeventeenth Rules in the Book of Rates allowed them otherwiſe not.*

This Allowance given upon Imported Goods which the Merchant after would Export, and which appeared to have been at firſt brought in, as the fruits of the Woollen and other our native Commodities returned hither: will doubtleſs oblige the Merchant for his own Intereſt being thus thereunto incouraged; to carry out our Cloths to Foreign Markets as much as he can poſſibly vend there: And the excellency of the Cloth hereafter above what it was will make all Nations eager to buy it. Then all Princes will leſſen their Taxes on ſo neceſſary and ſo improv'd a Commodity; but if they do not we may eaſily bring them to it by laying higher Duties on theirs. The *Eaſt-India* Company may complain and our *Weſt-India* Plantations, but the *Eaſt-India* Company are anſwered, for they may Trade with *Japan*, where the Woollen Manufactures are taken off: and then they'l have thoſe Benefits, and ſince all others are forbid to Trade, and they have the ſole Monopoly of thoſe Trades and benefit to themſelves; let them give a greater Cuſtom where 'tis now but ſmall, that the King may have ſome more of the vaſt Advantages as a hundred *per Cent.* which they make. If they ſhould have the benefit of thoſe Rules then all our Plantations will be filled with Foreign wrought Silks, which will be great prejudice to our own Silk Broad-weavers of *London*: which upon Exportation pay Subſidy outward one Peny *per* Pound: *Quære* by the Bill for Tunnage and Poundage whether that Clauſe might not yet be mended (*i. e.*) that all wrought Silks Imported if Exported ſhall go out Cuſtom free and all Duties paid upon it be repaid.

16th. *A new Waping Cloth and Tilleting hereby appointed for to ſerve in Packing and Wrapping all Woollen Manufactures in lieu, of* French *Linnen and Canvas.*

All Objections will be anſwered in this, ſo much Money will be ſaved now goes into *Normandy*, and the packing ſtuff deſign'd will be as light, cheap, & ſtronger, keep Wool dry and laſt longer dry then Linnen. The tilleting ſtuff when well Woven and ſcoured, will keep out the Dirt, Worms and Moth, better then the *Buckerham*; the Merchants now uſe to wrap the Cloths in that go abroad: And may as well be adorn'd with any print on the head end and writ upon: But whereas when he ſells the Cloth, he uſed to give away the tillet as nothing worth, this may be ſold, for it will be of uſe: Beſides Lambs Wool and Flocks is uſed for abbing of this tilletting ſtuff, which will make ſuch conſumption of that ſort of Wool; as it need not be uſed in Statute Cloth 4. *E.* 4. and alſo more Wool ſold, the chain of this ſtuff is to be of long Wool, of which great quantities will be conſumed.

17th, *Care for the Towns of* Colcheſter, &c. *and Weſt-riding of* Yorkſhire *to have the benefit of Acts made for their Woollen Manufactures.*

Theſe Corporations have Maſters, Wardens and Aſſiſtants, which is in effect what is deſired by Commiſſioners and Searchers, and may be performed more uſefully, and with leſs corruption, and moderate fines put upon faults committed; they are paid for a ſearch, but this Bill does not interrupt their Proceedings only to ſee they continue to act accordingly: And only give an account what they ſearch, that thereby may be known what is yearly made.

18th, *Small Duty paid on the 4 foreſaid ſeveral views of Cloth, &c. to maintain the charge of Commiſſioners, and all Officers concerned in the ſaid viewing and looking after Woollen Manufactures.*

This is but ſuch a Rate as Corporations do now take, except the Cloth-workers and Dyers ſearch; 'tis reaſonable firſt the King may not be a looſer either by paying the ſaid Officers, or in his Cuſtoms by this Public Good: Beſides conſider the 4 ſeveral People this Duty is divided amongſt to be paid, will be infinite gainers by giving ſo inconſiderable a Sum to ſupport conſtant Overſeers, to ſecure that each Worker about Cloth do his part to make it good, that their Trade be thriving and incouraged both at home and abroad; alſo hereby they will paſs through their ſeveral hands many more Clothes a Year, and they made much better and cheaper thereby.

19th, *Aulnage Duty put down becauſe one of the foreſaid views does the ſame thing, and a compenſation to the Dutcheſs of* Richmond, *and to the Farmers if they appear wronged.*

That no body receive any prejudice hereby.

20th, *None concerned in the foreſaid Offices, but ſuch as are fit and qualified according to Law.*

That they be not lyable by ignorance or corruption to commit faults, which the Commiſſioners will ſeverely puniſh; ſo as the Clothiers and Country ſhall ever have ſpeedy redreſs againſt them.

21ſt, *This Cypher* XXX *to be on Cloth for the future to perpetuate the Reign, this paſt in and diſtinguiſh Clothes ſince made from former ones.*

22d, *That who have Wollen wares by them, do give an account after the paſſing this Act what in quantity and quality.*

To ſee what remains of old ſtore, that the Commiſſioners may judge of the future increaſe of the Wollen Trade, and be a check upon all the four views; that they let none paſs, made falſe without marking them.

23d,

23d, *That the Wages for under poor w[illegible] be every half Year with regard to ſcarcity and plenty, ſet by the Juſtices of the Seſſions.*

For Labourers &c. of a different labor from this 'twas ſo appointed 5*th* of *Eliz.* why not with more reaſon in this when the Weaver, Cloth-worker and Dyer being at a certainty what they muſt have for their labor, will chearfully pay for the view and ſearch above expreſt when they are no longer oppreſt by the Clothier or paid in Goods inſtead of Money; and often beat down to take too little in reaſon for their pains. Alſo this will make it that the poor Clothier may get Workmen, as eaſily as the rich; for lack of which he is often forced to ceaſe the Trade, while the rich Engroſs all the Workers.

24th, *Higher Cuſtom on* Iriſh *Frees*; Scotch *Linnen and Coals till the* Scotch *take off the Prohibition on our Woollen Manufactures.*

The *Scotch* bought formerly great quantities of our Cloth, and now none permitted to be imported thither; though much of their Linnen and Coals does come hether.

25th, *No Wool, Fullers Earth &c. to be exported.*

The benefit of which will be evident if the Regiſter of Wool herein be as it is thought ſo exact, that hardly a lock can be diſpoſed, but ſo as the Commiſſioners will be able to gueſs nearly where and how Manufactured: Since 'tis hardly poſſible that any combination can be where the checks are ſo many and ſo ſtrict a view on each other and on the Wool, and in ſuch hands as cannot combine together to elude, but the Improvement of the Cloths will occaſion ſo much a greater conſumption of Wool, that it will bear a better price here then when Tranſported, and that will make none after a while attempt to Export it.

26th, *No Wool ſold but at Fair and Market.*

'Tis according to an old Law 27 *E.* 3. *c.* 1. 22*d.* to ſell at certain Market Towns openly 6 *H.* 8. *c.* 8. no Perſon ſhall buy any coloured Wool or Yearn but at open Market 33 *H.* 8. *c.* 16. none to buy Yarn but at open Market, and that by Weavers and Artificers. If coloured Wool and Yarn, why not Wool that is Raw.

27th, *No Wool Conveyed from place to place, without the Kings Weighers certificate.*

This to prevent the chief way they now have of conveying it abroad, by carrying of it with a ſtrong Guard from place to place, till at length it get inſenſibly and undiſcerned to the Port and is thence Exported. For by this certificate it is traced from the firſt remove, and by certificates where ever it goes, watched ſo as it can hardly eſcape without the knowledge of the Officers who will ſtop it.

28th, *To prevent Monopolizing Wool, the price to be ſet with Advice of the Clothiers at the Quarter-Seſſions.*

Which will make it as cheap to the Poor as to the Rich Clothiers, when buyer and ſeller know what muſt be paid for Wool, a great deal of delay and uncertainty in bargaining will be avoided; and the Sale of Wool be the quicker, and be then every Mans Money like Gold and Silver at a certain Standard. Beſides, prevent the Clothiers forcing the Grower to part with his Wool at what low rate he and his Fellow Trades-men have agreed to give. The Gentry thus conſulting the Clothier in the Face of the Country, are unlikely to put any unreaſonable price: But this will be a juſt *medium* between the owners of Wool and Workers thereof, and increaſe the number of Clothiers when all can have Wool at the ſame price.

29th, *Importers of Wool give the Commiſſioners account what they import.*

By this the Commiſſioners will know what's Yearly Imported, and keep an account thereof; by which they may from what is yearly Manufactured, find if any of it be otherwiſe imployed.

30th, *Wool worſted, and Yarn to be ſold at Market and Fair, and Weighed by the Kings Weigher.*

This is agreeable to the Statute 27 *E.* 3. *C.* 1 and 22*d.* but if thoſe Towns and Fairs the Parliament ſhall appoint Wool to be ſold in, ſhould have any Grant by Patent to weigh Wool; then the weigher of Wool there ſhall be ſworn to do it as for the King, to have a Beam with his mark: And perform to all Intents and Purpoſes, as other the Kings Weighers are to do to the Commiſſioners upon the like penalty for any default. The Weighers are to ſee Wool, &c. be Merchantable and juſtly weighed between buyer and ſeller: And that he may Regiſter all, and tranſmit fair Copies to the Commiſſioners, all which is to render it ſtill more difficult to deceive them.

31. *Wool ſold at certain Towns.*

To be named as convenient in all Countries as may be, but at ſuch a diſtance from the Sea; as may make it uneaſie to be tranſported.

32d. *Parſon of the Pariſh give an account of remains of Wool in each Pariſh to the Commiſſioners aforeſaid.*

This will be the exacteſt Regiſter that can be, of all growing Wool and dead Wool; and eaſieſt executed: Becauſe the Miniſter does it already in a manner for himſelf to aſcertain what his Tythe is, and why not take a little more trouble to advance ſo public a good.

33d. *All growers of Wool, and importers to give yearly an account what they have ſhorn or ſold.*

This

This will be another good check to know what is done with Wool.

34th, *That Wool buyers may be known to be Workers of what they buy, they muſt have Licenſe to buy the ſame.*

Not to buy Wool without Licenſe firſt obtained ſeems reaſonable, that the Commiſſioners may take good ſecurity, that he who buys Wool do not Engroſs and turn Merchant of that commodity; but Work it into Manufacture himſelf: Or elſe moſt of the Clothiers would follow only the buying of Wool, and make a Trade of ſelling it to others, which would leſſen the number of Clothiers, and ſuch as would otherwiſe Manufacture it themſelves.

35th, *None ſell Wool but Grower, Importer or Fell-puller.*

For by Law none even now ought to retail Wool but *Norwich* and *Hallifax*, who are permitted by Statute ſo to do 1 *E.* 6. *c.* 6. 2 and 3. and *Ma. c.* 13. and this will prevent the Engroſſing and Monoplizing it as now they do, buying up great quantities when it bears a low price, which undoes the Grower or Eſtated Man, when his Tenants can have but little for their Wool: Then after theſe Retailers have ſtored up great Magazines of Wool, they can by the ſcarcity agree to ſet what price they pleaſe upon the Clothier and other Workers of it, which renders our Woollen Manufactures dear; and by their deceitful ſorting of it, not to be made good as it would be otherwiſe.

36th, *None to buy Wool Woſted and Yarn, but the Licenſed Clothiers and known Workers of it.*

They ſhould renew their Licenſes every Year for 12*d.* then they will for their own profit when ſo on their good behaviour, by being under the conſtant care and ſpur of the Commiſſioners, Manufacture Cloth, &c. as it ſhould be, ſince they have the means and incouragement thereby to gain the Markets abroad, which will leave little or no waſt Wool at the Years end in the Kingdom.

37th, *The Wheigher keep a Regiſter of all his doings*

Of which he is to tranſmit a fair Copy quarterly to the Commiſſioners, which will be an eaſe by the method and order of things to the Commiſſioners, and make their pains the leſs.

38th, *A ſmall rate ſet for the charge of the King's Beam and Weighing.*

This is no more then as at preſent in Fairs, when they weigh Wool and pay ſo much a tod, and have not that juſtneſs and ſecurity therein between buyer and ſeller, as this will occaſion.

39th, *This Act be read yearly in the Pariſh Churches to promulge it.*

40th, *All Penalties to be levyed by diſtreſs upon the Commiſſioners Order.*

For unleſs the levying of Penalties and Duties (which are the chief obligation to cauſe Men to apply themſelves to the ſeveral parts of the Woollen Manufactures, according to the Commiſſioners directions) be not to be got up in a very eaſie ſpeedy manner; all the other Branches of this Bill, will be ineffectual to the Public Good to which it tends.

If theſe reaſons aforementioned are not all demonſtrative, yet probably they may open a way to have a Law paſſed, that may be of great benefit to this Kingdom; in the full Improvement of the Woollen Manufactures thereof. All which is humbly ſubmitted to the Wiſdom of the Parliament.

FINIS.